

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 114-152 are pending in the application, with claims 114 and 133 being the independent claims. Claims 114, 121, 122, 133, 140, and 141, are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 114, 116-131, 133-150, and 152, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Qmodem-Advanced Communications Operation Manual, Version 4.0, 1989 ("Qmodem"), and Microsoft Press' Computer Dictionary, 2nd Edition, 1993 ("Microsoft"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

According to the Examiner:

Qmodem discloses a plurality of online service providers or Bulletin Board Systems (BBS) including Forbin Project, Sound of Music, Hayes Support BBS or the Sail Air PCBoard (pg. 110) that each have individualized customized interfaces. Further, one of ordinary skill would readily recognize that any changes to the online-service provider's user interface is stored so that when the user subsequently dials into the server of the online-service providers the same changes would be reloaded.

(Office Action, page 5, emphasis added).

Without acquiescing to the Examiner's description of Qmodem, Applicant notes that interfaces provided by online services, such as those cited by the Examiner, constrain content providers who provide content through the online services. As pointed out in the specification, publishers are "limited to using the presentation facilities provided by the user interface in the online service's client software." ('337 specification, page 40, lines 20-21).

The present specification discloses systems and methods that enable the use of graphical user interfaces that are independent of the online services, and are thus customizable independent of the online services. *See, e.g.*, '337 specification, page 42, line 24, to page 43, line 3 ("enables the publisher to offer fully customized user interfaces for use with multiple or any one of multiple server and network services which do not provide for such customization").

Accordingly, claim 114 has been amended to recite, among other features:

one or more service-independent graphical user interfaces stored and executable at the user station, associated with the application function, and configured to present the user with different graphical user interface functions for different selected online services in support of the application function.

(Emphasis added).

Neither Qmodem nor Microsoft addresses limitations of graphical user interfaces provided by online services. Thus, neither Qmodem nor Microsoft, alone or in combination with one another, teach or suggest the combination of features recited in amended claim 114. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claims 116-131 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 114, and are thus patentable for at least the reasons provided above with respect to claim 114, and further in view of the respective features recited therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 116-131 are requested.

Independent claim 133 has been amended similarly to claim 114. Accordingly, claim 133 is patentable for at least the reasons provided above with respect to claim 114. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 133 are requested.

Claims 134-150 and 152 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 133, and are thus patentable for at least the reasons provided above with respect to claim 133, and further in view of the respective features recited therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 134-150 and 152 are requested.

On page 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 115, 132, and 151 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Qmodem in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,031,977, to Pettus ("Pettus"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Pettus is directed to an object-oriented distributed communications directory service. Pettus does not address limitations of graphical user interfaces provided by online services. Pettus thus does not cure the deficiencies of Qmodem and Microsoft, described above with respect to claims 114 and 113, from which claims 115, 132, and 151 depend. Claims 115, 132, and 151 are thus patentable for at least the reasons provided above with respect to claims 114 and 133, and further in view of the features recited therein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Other Matters

On page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the "Examiner believes that the publishers download to the user station customized interfaces via connection to the publisher's service."

In response, Applicant notes that, while downloading from publishers is a way of obtaining interfaces, it is not the only way. The present specification discloses, among other sources of interfaces, interfaces produced by third parties (e.g., page 40, line 26), and interfaces provided on CDs or generated in conjunction with interfaces provided on CDs (See "Examples," beginning on page 28 of the '337 specification).

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections.

Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick E. Garrett", written over the printed name.

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